

Japan's Scientific Progress Report on Large Cetaceans in the fiscal year 2021 (April 2021 to March 2022), with statistical data for the calendar year 2021

Government of Japan

ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the data and samples of large cetaceans, which were collected by the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR), Fisheries Resources Institute (FRI) and Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) in the fiscal year 2021 (April 2021 to March 2022), and statistical data for the calendar year 2021. Sighting data for abundance estimates of large cetaceans were collected in the western North Pacific, Okhotsk Sea and the Antarctic during systematic sighting surveys. During the surveys, photo-ID, biopsy and satellite tracking experiments on large cetaceans were also conducted. A large number of biological data and samples were collected during the surveys for whales taken under the commercial whaling. Species and figures of bycatch and stranding of large cetaceans are based on the reports of prefecture governments to the FAJ, which compile information from individual fishermen, fishermen cooperatives and general public. Data and samples collected are being analyzed for contributing to the management of large cetaceans in the North Pacific.

1. SIGHTINGS DATA

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	No. of Sightings
JASS-A (including middle and low latitudinal sighting survey) Dedicated sighting vessel (Yushin-Marun No.2) (2021/22)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2022	Area VIE	7
		Fin whale			92
		Sei whale			1
		Antarctic minke whale			169
		Humpback whale			53
		Bryde's whale			1
		Sperm whale			15
		Southern bottlenose whale			1
North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel survey in summer (Yushin-Marun, Kaiyo-Marun No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Central North Pacific	20
		Fin whale			124
		Sei whale			156
		Bryde's whale			72
		Common minke whale			1
		Humpback whale			16
		Sperm whale			193
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (Yushin-Marun No.2) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Eastern North Pacific	7
		Fin whale			115
		Sei whale			40
		Bryde's whale			22
		Sperm whale			22
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel in spring, autumn and winter (Yushin-Marun, Yushin-Marun No.2 and Kaiyo-Marun No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Western North Pacific	70
		Sei whale			31
		Bryde's whale			201
		Common minke whale			18
		Humpback whale			87
		Right whale			1
		Sperm whale			479
Dedicated Sighting vessel on small cetacean sighting survey (Kaiyo-Marun No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Western North Pacific	1
		Bryde's whale			40
		Sperm whale			85

2. MARKING DATA

2.1 Natural marking data

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Feature	No. of whales photo identified
JASS-A Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2021/22)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2022	Area VIE	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	7
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal fin	9
North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel survey in summer (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Central North Pacific	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	12
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal fin	5
		Sperm whale			Lateral marking	1
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Eastern North Pacific	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	7
		Fin whale			Lateral marking	31
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel in spring, autumn and winter (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Humpback whale	2021	Western North Pacific	Fluke, Dorsal fin	13
		Right whale			Head	1

2.2 Telemetry data

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Tag Type	No. of Deployments
JASS-A Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-</i> <i>Mar</i> No.2) (2021/22)	Southern Ocean	Fin whale	2022	Area VIE	Satellite	9
		Antarctic minke whale			Satellite	15
North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel survey in summer (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Central North Pacific	Satellite	8
		Sei whale	2021		Satellite	11
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Eastern North Pacific	Satellite	2
		Sei whale			3	
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel in spring, autumn and winter (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Western North Pacific	Satellite	8
		Sei whale	2021		Satellite	13
Abashiri coastal tagging and biopsy survey (<i>Chipashiri</i>)(2021)	Okhotsk Sea	Fin whale	2021	Off Abashiri	Satellite	4

3. Biopsy samples

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Number Collected
JASS-A (including middle and low latitudinal sighting survey) Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2021/22)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2022	Area VIE	2
		Fin whale			12
		Antarctic minke whale			15
		Humpback whale			11
		Bryde's whale			1
North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel survey in summer (<i>Yushin-Maru, Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Central North Pacific	1
		Fin whale			5
		Sei whale			15
		Humpback whale			3
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2021	Eastern North Pacific	3
		Fin whale			9
		Sei whale			4
		Bryde's whale			2
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel in spring, autumn and winter (<i>Yushin-Maru, Yushin-Maru No.2 and Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Western North Pacific	7
		Sei whale			13
		Humpback whale			5
		N.P. right whale			1
Abashiri coastal tagging and biopsy survey (<i>Chipashiri</i>)(2021)	Sea of Okhotsk	Fin whale	2021	Off Abashiri	14

4. Direct catches of cetaceans

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Total Landed	No. of animals examined	No. of research items	Type of Catch
Factory ship type whaling (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Sei whale	2021	Western North Pacific	25	25	24	Commercial whaling
		Bryde's whale			187	187	24	
Coastal base type whaling ¹⁾ (Ayukawa landstation) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2021	Off Japanese coast	19	19	29	Commercial whaling
Coastal base type whaling (Hachinohe landstation) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2021	Off Japanese coast	36	36	29	Commercial whaling
Coastal base type whaling (Abashiri landstation) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2021	Off Japanese coast	18	18	29	Commercial whaling
Coastal base type whaling (Kushiro landstation) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2021	Off Japanese coast	18	18	29	Commercial whaling

1) "Small type coastal whaling" has been renamed as "Coastal base type whaling" due to the amendment of the Fishery Act on December 1st 2020.

5. Fisheries bycatches of cetaceans

Species	No. of animals	Location ¹⁾	Fate ²⁾	Gear ³⁾	Target fish species ⁴⁾	Source or contact
Common minke whale	8	Hokkaido	K	FPN	NA	FAJ
	5	Aomori	K	FRN		
	1		D			
	1		D	MIS		
	9		Iwate	K		
	4	Miyagi	K	FPN		
	2	Chiba	K	FPN		
	4	Niigata	K	FPN		
	9	Toyama	K	FPN		
	7	Ishikawa	K	FPN		
	3	Mie	K	FRN		
	1		D			
	3	Kyoto	K	FPN		
	1	Wakayama	K	FPN		
	3	Shimane	K	FPN		
	3	Yamaguchi	K	FPN		
	7	Kochi	K	FPN		
	1	Fukuoka	K	FPN		
	1	Saga	K	FPN		
	6	Nagasaki	K	FPN		
3	Miyazaki	K	FPN			
1	Kagoshima	K	FPN			
Sei whale	1	Iwate	K	FPN		
Fin whale	1	Yamagata	K	FPN		
	1	Mie	K	FPN		
	1	Wakayama	D	FPN		
Humpback whale	1	Shizuoka	D	FPN		
	2	Wakayama	R	FRN		
	1		D			

1) Recorded at the place of fishing gears.

2) Fate of whale: D = discarded dead or seriously injured, K = kept for sale or specimen, R = released alive

3) Described using "FAO FISHING DESCRIPTION AND CODES", that is, stationary uncovered pound nets (FPN), set gillnets (GNS) and miscellaneous gear (MIS).

4) Target fish species: NA = not available

6. Stranding of cetaceans

Species	No. strandings	Prefecture	Source or contact
Common minke whale	4	Hokkaido	FAJ
	2	Aomori	
	1	Wakayama	
	1	Kagoshima	
Sei whale	1	Nagasaki	
Bryde's whale	1	Hokkaido	
	1	Aichi	
	1	Wakayama	
	1	Okayama	
Fin whale	1	Ibaraki	
Humpback whale	1	Kanagawa	
	2	Shizuoka	
	1	Nagasaki	
Sperm whale	3	Hokkaido	
	3	Chiba	
Unidentified baleenopteric whale	1	Osaka	
Unidentified baleen whale	2	Hokkaido	
Unidentified large whale	1	Wakayama	